

**Hampton Beach Area Commission
100 Winnacunnet Road
Hampton, New Hampshire 03842
Hampton Police Station – 2nd Floor Training Room
7 PM
February 18, 2010**

In Attendance:

John Nyhan, Chairman, Town of Hampton
Brian Warburton, Secretary/Treasurer, DRED (Seacoast Parks/Recreation)
Richard Griffin, Town of Hampton
Geannina Guzman-Scanlan- Hampton Beach Village District
Fran McMahon- Rockingham Planning Commission
Bob Preston- Hampton Chamber of Commerce
Richard Sawyer, Citizen at Large

Other:

Jamie Steffen- Hampton Town Planner (Administration)

Excused:

Bill Watson, Vice Chairman, NH Department of Transportation
Lenny Paul – Hampton Beach Village District
Candice Sicard- Secretary

AGENDA

1. Introduction of Commissioners
2. Public Comment Session – related to agenda items

None

3. Review & approval of 01/28/10 Minutes

MOVED by Mr. Sawyer to approve the 01/28/10 minutes as submitted

SECOND by Mr. McMahon

VOTE:

7-0-0

MOTION PASSED

Old Business

1. Beach Project Update (Nyhan/Warburton)

Mr. Warburton said there have been several meetings and conference calls with Harvey Construction, DRED and the Town of Hampton regarding the upcoming project. He

noted that they will be going to the Planning Board on 03/03/10 in order to present their plans to the public, and to go over the details. Mr. Warburton spoke about the construction of the bathhouses, including the timeline and construction schedule. He noted that the plans are still in place to tear down the complex after the Seafood Festival. There may be a groundbreaking ceremony in April, and the Commission will be notified of the exact date.

Regarding other State Park news, Mr. Warburton said the no smoking bill submitted to the NH Legislature did not get the necessary votes and he is still waiting to hear an update about the litter bill. The state parks license plate also did not receive the necessary votes. Mr. Warburton also mentioned that Stage III of the Seawall reconstruction will begin shortly, beginning with work from 8th Street to just after 10th Street.

Chairman Nyhan said that they would like to invite Harvey Construction to the April meeting. The Commissioners agreed.

2. Beach Infrastructure Project Update (Griffin)

Mr. Griffin said there is not a lot going on currently, but hopes to have a better update soon.

3. Parking Study Update (Warburton)

Mr. Warburton said that there is an upcoming meeting with the RPC, Richard Sawyer, Chairman Nyhan and himself about the next steps, and he will keep the Commission updated after the meeting.

4. Commission's involvement – Beach Project/NH Arts Council (Guzman-Scanlan)

Mrs. Guzman-Scanlan said that there will be a meeting on 02/26/10 to develop the RFP that will be going to artists requesting project submittals. She noted they also met with local Hampton artists regarding preliminary ideas about the themes they would feel would represent the beach. The areas of interest for artwork were discussed, and types of work were discussed.

5. Commission Administrative Clerk financial support

Chairman Nyhan said that Mr. Warburton had written a letter to the state regarding the need for some financial support to cover the cost of our administrative clerk (Ms. Sicard). He said he was still waiting to hear from his Concord office. In the meantime, Chairman Nyhan said luckily there was a local businessman who heard about the need for funds through last month's meeting and has donated money to keep Ms. Sicard until the end of May. If DRED is able to come up with those funds they will go to the meetings which commence again in September. It was noted that the business member wished not be recognized.

6. Commission future status – State committee review on Commissions etc.

Chairman Nyhan said that the latest update regarding the committees review came from Representative Nancy Stiles. At the previous meeting the Commission was informed there was a 3-2 vote taken to see whether the HBAC should stay separate or be combined with the State Recreation Advisory Board. After the vote was taken there was one opposing voter who felt strongly that the HBAC should be combined. It was noted that there could be a further discussion about this by the full NH House.

4. Other Old Business

Mr. Griffin wanted to discuss legislation status. He said that the NH Legislative Committee has voted against the zoning/planning board proposal at the beach. Chairman Nyhan said that he has spoken with Representative Stiles, where she mentioned that it could take one state representative to have a House discussion about the issue. There will likely be further discussions regarding this and he will keep the Commission updated as he hears more information.

Mr. Griffin asked if members who are not attending had a right to vote, it was answered no. Mr. Griffin asked if all business for the HBAC is done at the meeting, and this too was affirmed.

New Business

1. Commission & DRED proposed strategy meeting – Visitors Center

Chairman Nyhan said that the HBAC became very proactive in searching for funding for the Visitors Center, through DRED and other funding sources including CMAQ and Scenic Byways Program. Both are Federally funded programs with local matching requirements. The Commission and DRED wrote letters of intent were submitted to both programs. Chairman Nyhan said he attended a conference regarding CMAQ and he detailed the information he received about the application process. The Visitors Center and its features including parking and transportation were discussed.

2. Commission's strategy regarding a (Underwood) bridge engineering study (Sawyer)

Mr. Sawyer said that he has met with Representative Stiles and Mr. McMahon regarding the study and the steps that need to be taken to complete this study. One of the big issues was the power plant getting things in and out of the bridge area. Mr. Sawyer said that the bridge involves several state agencies including DRED, DOT and the Port Authority. He also noted that environmental groups would likely be involved as well. Mr. Sawyer noted that the next step is to speak with each of these stakeholders in order to make a solid plan with objectives regarding the study.

3. Discussion – Support the get out and vote – upcoming Precinct Annual Meeting (Nyhan)

Chairman Nyhan said he thought it was important that the HBAC support the Village District (Precinct) and the Commissioners in their upcoming meeting in March. He thought that the Commission should encourage the people who live with the Village District to get out and vote. Chairman Nyhan said he spoke with Patrick Cronin regarding a proposed warrant about removing the precinct. Chairman Nyhan said that personally commented to Mr. Cronin he did not support the warrant and believed the precinct should be retained. He encouraged each member of the HBAC who lives in the District to vote, and get others to vote.

Mr. Griffin said that there are people who live at the beach who do not feel that the Precinct represents their original mission on fostering business and entertainment at the beach. He also agreed that it is important to get out and vote.

Mr. Preston said that he is surprised, because he thought that the Precinct does a lot for the beach. He pointed out entertainment, concerts and sandcastle competitions as activities that the precinct sponsors. He said that he thought it would be terrible to lose the Precinct. Mr. Griffin said that he thinks that business people are not being well represented by the Precinct.

Other New Business

Mr. Griffin said that he wanted to comment on how nice the Ashworth looks. He spoke about new windows and the change in the front of the building.

Mr. McMahon spoke about the nine condominium approval, and that it is being litigated currently.

Mrs. Guzman-Scanlan said that there is a need for dialogue with all the groups involved in making the beach a better place. She also mentioned one issue that is being discussed, including Selectman Lally to form a committee from the beach regarding the trash collection at the beach. There was discussion about the issues of trash and recycling collection at the beach. Mr. Warburton spoke about trash and the intense work about state parks in the trash collection efforts. He said he continues to search for financial resources that are needed for the state and the beach. Mr. Griffin spoke about the warrant articles that are proposed about limiting trash at the beach and he noted that this was not endorsed or introduced by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Griffin said he agrees with what Mrs. Guzman-Scanlan said and that this is what the Precinct should be doing. He said that he thinks part of the beautification of the beach is part of the trash issue which he thought the Precinct should be focusing on. Mr. Preston said that he has always heard from renters that the beach looks clean and how well the state does cleaning the beaches.

Note: At this point in the meeting, there was a request by a member of the audience to have public comment. The Commissioners gave their approval.

Public Comment

Chairman Nyhan asked the commissioners how they felt about public comment. Mr. Sawyer thought appointments should be made ahead of time. Mrs. Guzman-Scanlan said she agrees with the public comment session so long as the comment period is 3-5 min. Mr. Griffin agreed with Mr. Sawyer that there should be appointments made, but does not disagree with the public comment session. Mr. Preston said that the meeting was short this month and that there is time for public comment. Mr. McMahon said that he agreed with Mr. Preston, but thought if the agenda was long that this would be unnecessary. Mr. Warburton said that he does not have a problem with the public comments.

Mike Scanlan, Hampton Beach Resident- spoke about his concerns regarding the disbanding of the precinct. He believed the precinct should be retained.

Linda Gebhart, 3 Bailey Avenue- spoke about her role on the precinct and beautification committee. She spoke about the trash issue, thanking Mr. Warburton and his crew for his hard work. She spoke about the issue of trash and its connections to tourism. Mr. Warburton spoke about the great work done by the beautification committee.

John Gebhart, 3 Bailey Avenue- spoke about his role with the precinct. He thought that if business owners or people have suggestions go bring them to the precincts attention.

Mr. Griffin said that there are few business owners who attend the precinct meetings, which he felt was a weakness.

Grace DiDominica, Beach Resident – thanked the commission and the beautification project. She spoke about the mandatory recycling, as her landlord has been having a hard time getting his tenants to recycle. She disagreed with the implementation process of mandatory recycling.

Mr. Sawyer recognized the death of Mr. Jack Ford and wanted to wish condolences to his family.

Adjourn

MOVED by Mr. Griffin to adjourn

SECOND by Mr. Warburton

VOTE: 7-0-0

MOTION PASSED

Meeting Adjourned at 8:09 pm